LISTING OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

Below are set forth the currently pending claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining a potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E ~~anti-oxidant~~ therapy for treatment of a cardiovascular complication comprising cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction, the method comprising determining a haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient and thereby determining the potential of the diabetic patient to benefit from said vitamin E ~~anti-oxidant~~ therapy, wherein said benefit from said vitamin E ~~anti-oxidant~~ therapy to a patient having a haptoglobin 2-2 phenotype is greater compared to patients having haptoglobin 1-2 phenotype or haptoglobin 1-1 phenotypes.

2. to 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by determining a haptoglobin genotype of the diabetic patient.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of determining said haptoglobin genotype of the diabetic patient is effected by a method selected from the group consisting of a signal amplification method, a direct detection method and detection of at least one sequence change.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said signal amplification method amplifies a molecule selected from the group consisting of a DNA molecule and an RNA molecule.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said signal amplification method is selected from the group consisting of PCR, LCR (LAR), Self-Sustained Synthetic Reaction (3SR/NASBA) and Q-Beta (Qβ) Replicase reaction.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said direct detection method is selected from the group consisting of a cycling probe reaction (CPR) and a branched DNA analysis.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7, wherein said detection of at least one sequence change employs a method selected from the group consisting of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP analysis), allele specific oligonucleotide (ASO) analysis, Denaturing/Temperature Gradient Gel Electrophoresis (DGGE/TGGE), Single-Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP) analysis and Dideoxy fingerprinting (ddF).

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by directly determining the haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein step of determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by an immunological detection method.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said immunological detection method is selected from the group consisting of a radio-immunoassay (RIA), an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), a western blot, an immunohistochemical analysis, and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS).

15. (Currently amended) A method of determining the importance of reducing oxidative stress by administering vitamin E in a diabetic patient so as to prevent a diabetes-associated cardiovascular complication comprising cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction, the method comprising the step of determining a haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient, thereby determining the importance of reducing the oxidative stress by administering vitamin E in the specific diabetic patient, wherein said importance of reducing oxidative stress by administering vitamin E is greater in a patient having a haptoglobin 2-2 phenotype compared to patients having haptoglobin 1-2 phenotype or haptoglobin 1-1 phenotypes.

16. to 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by determining a haptoglobin genotype of the diabetic patient.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of determining said haptoglobin genotype of the diabetic patient is effected by a method

selected from the group consisting of a signal amplification method, a direct detection method and detection of at least one sequence change.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said signal amplification method amplifies a molecule selected from the group consisting of a DNA molecule and an RNA molecule.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said signal amplification method is selected from the group consisting of PCR, LCR (LAR), Self-Sustained Synthetic Reaction (3SR/NASBA) and Q-Beta (Qβ) Replicase reaction.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said direct detection method is selected from the group consisting of a cycling probe reaction (CPR) and a branched DNA analysis.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said detection of at least one sequence change employs a method selected from the group consisting of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP analysis), allele specific oligonucleotide (ASO) analysis, Denaturing/Temperature Gradient Gel Electrophoresis (DGGE/TGGE), Single-Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP) analysis and Dideoxy fingerprinting (ddF).

26. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by directly determining the haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said step of determining said haptoglobin phenotype is effected by an immunological detection method.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein said an immunological detection method is selected from the group consisting of a radio-immunoassay (RIA), an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), a western blot, an immunohistochemical analysis, and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS).

29. (Cancelled)